CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A rotary cutting die for cooperating with a rotary anvil to cut corrugated board comprising:

(a) a base;

(b) at least one scrap cutting blade secured to the base of the cutting die for cutting a piece of scrap from a sheet of corrugated board that is directed through a nip defined between the cutting die and the anvil;

(c) at least one scrap stripper mounted to the base adjacent the blade for stripping a cut scrap piece from the blade and for urging the cut scrap piece against the anvil as the cut scrap piece exits the nip;

(d) at least one scrap stripper being constructed of a resilient and compressible material and including a base, and a flexible finger integral with the base and extending outwardly over the base and at an acute angle with respect to the base such that an opening is defined between the angled finger and the base; ~~and~~

(e) wherein the flexible finger is movable between a retracted position where the finger lies adjacent the base and an extended position where at least a portion of the finger is separated from the base; and

(f) wherein in the retracted position the finger and base are both compressed.

2. (Previously Amended) The rotary cutting die of claim 1 wherein the finger forms an acute angle of approximately 30-75 degrees with the base.

3. (Previously Amended) The rotary die cutting board of claim 1 wherein the die cutting is designed to rotate in a certain direction and wherein the finger is angled away from said direction.

4. (Original) The rotary cutting die of claim 1 wherein in the retracted position the finger assumes a compressed state and when compressed, the finger is pushed into contact

with the base such that both the finger and base can be compressed together in response to the scrap stripper passing through the nip between the die cutting board and the anvil.

5. (Original) The rotary cutting die of claim 1 including a plurality of the scrap strippers particularly placed on the base to engage one or more cut scrap pieces and strip the one or more scrap pieces from one or more adjacent blades.

6. (Previously Amended) The rotary cutting die of claim 1 wherein prior to entering the nip, the scrap stripper assumes an erect position and upon entering the nip, the finger is closed adjacent the base and the finger and base are compressed together, and upon moving from the nip both the base and the finger expand and the finger separates from the base and moves outwardly towards the erect position and in the process the finger engages and holds the cut piece of scrap adjacent the anvil such that the anvil acts to direct the cut scrap away from the die cutting board and anvil.

7. (Original) The rotary die cutting of claim 1 wherein the scrap stripper is constructed of a closed cell rubber material having a durometer of approximately 25-60.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of cutting corrugated board passing between a rotary cutting die and an anvil, stripping one or more cut scrap pieces from a scrap cutting blade, and directing the cut scrap from the cutting die and anvil, comprising;

(a) directing a sheet of corrugated board through a nip area defined between the cutting die and anvil;

(b) cutting one or more scrap pieces from the corrugated board as it passes through the nip;

(c) utilizing a scrap stripper having a base and a flexible, angled finger to strip the cut scrap piece from the scrap blade and to control the direction of movement of the scrap piece as the scrap piece exits the nip, and wherein the flexible finger is integral with the base and extends outwardly over the base at an acute angle with respect to the base such that an opening is defined between the angled finger and the base;

(d) compressing the scrap stripper between the cutting die and the scrap piece by bending and compressing the finger against the base, closing the opening existing between the angled finger and the base, and compressing both the finger and base as the scrap stripper moves through the nip;

(e) expanding the scrap stripper as the scrap stripper moves from the nip and engaging the cut scrap piece and stripping [[it]] the cut scrap piece from the scrap cutting blade; and

(f) extending the flexible finger outwardly as the scrap stripper moves from the nip and engaging the cut scrap piece with the extended finger and holding the cut scrap piece against the anvil with the finger such that the anvil tends to direct the cut scrap piece away from the nip and away from the cutting die and anvil.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the finger normally extends outwardly past the scrap cutting blade when it assumes a normal non-compressed posture and wherein when the scrap stripper assumes a fully compressed position both the finger and base are compressed such that together they do not extend past the height of the scrap cutting blade.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the scrap stripper is oriented such that the finger thereof, when extended, extends in a general direction opposite a direction of travel of the die cutting board.

11. (Previously Canceled).

12. (Previously Canceled).

13. (Previously Canceled).

14. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the angle formed between the base and the finger is approximately 30-75 degrees.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Canceled).

23. (Previously Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

29. (Canceled).

30. (New) A rotary cutting die for cooperating with a rotary anvil to cut corrugated board comprising:

(a) a base;

(b) at least one scrap cutting blade secured to the base of the cutting die for cutting a piece of scrap from a sheet of corrugated board that is directed through a nip defined between the cutting die and the anvil;

(c) at least one scrap stripper mounted to the base adjacent the blade for stripping a cut scrap piece from the blade and for urging the cut scrap piece against the anvil as the cut scrap piece exits the nip;

(d) at least one scrap stripper being constructed of a resilient and compressible material and including a base, and a flexible finger integral with the base and extending outwardly over the base and at an acute angle with respect to the base such that an opening is defined between the angled finger and the base;

(e) wherein the flexible finger is movable between a retracted position where the finger lies adjacent the base and an extended position where at least a portion of the finger is separated from the base; and

(f) and wherein the finger of the scrap stripper in the extended position assumes a straight configuration.